



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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09/28/2011 Minutes

- **VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP RESERVOIR~ COMMITTEE**
- **Final - September 28,~2011 MEETING At Town Hall Annex, First Floor**
- **In attendance:** Lisa Fredman, Cathy Garnett, Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Rachel James, Elizabeth Karpati, Ann LeRoy, Jim Marzilli, Stefan Miller, David White.
- **Facilitator:** David White **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati
- Next meeting: TBA
- The minutes of the July meeting were approved with one correction: the "Kentucky coffee trees" mentioned are actually a different species; identification pending. No formal minutes were taken of the brief discussion of Town Day plans before the September 10 work day, but we did approve spending up to \$300 for Town Day materials and for bulbs for Fall planting.
- The **Town Day** display included some wonderful pictures of the new habitat garden by Rachel. It attracted a lot of attention but no new members. Supplies cost about \$40-50.
- The Bicycle Advisory Committee wants to improve **signage on the bikepath**. Stefan will ask the committee to include a sign pointing to the garden.
- **Finances:** We have received to date a total of \$5,805 in grants and gifts. We have spent \$4,371 leaving a net balance of \$1,443.31.
- We should do an **annual report** on the garden, including a list of donors and acknowledgement of volunteer efforts – estimate of total hours if possible, or e.g. the number participating in the initial planting. Martine will start working on it. This could be part of Jane's annual report to Town Meeting, which is due in January.
- We could try to get groups to help with **volunteer work** – e.g., BU students have a service day in the spring, and this year they helped the Friends of Spy Pond Park with a work day.
- Martine noted that there are now enough plants in the **sunny meadow**. Possible fall planting on the shady side: Geranium maculatum, Dicentra eximia, Celandine poppy; Baptisia australis (needs sun). Martine suggests observing the garden for a year before adding much else. She ordered some Allium bulbs for Town Day which arrived too late, and she has already arranged to have them planted by students from the Covenant School.
- Plants should be left standing over winter, then cut back in late winter while the ground is still frozen, probably early March.
- **Signage** in the garden should be tied in somehow with the Mill Brook corridor idea. Rachel's pictures could be used for plant ID signs, with additional information such as "host to," placed where they don't tempt people to step into beds. David will draft wording for a basic sign including website address, to replace the present "future site of..." sign.

- The present string-and-stake **fencing** should suffice for the winter. David fixes it as needed.
- Lisa suggested creating a **2013 calendar** as a fundraiser, to be sold at Town Day 2012. Cathy is willing to work with her after October. We could announce the idea and ask for contributions of pictures taken next summer, anywhere at the Res, not just at the garden.
- **Water chestnuts** removed from the Res this summer totaled 253 tons! The harvesting machine caused serious erosion where it entered the water, near the parking lot. Perhaps a permanent ramp is needed, preferably near the north end where most of the chestnuts grow. More mechanical harvesting will be needed next year and probably beyond. Signs reminding people to be careful not to spread the chestnut seeds are also needed.
- The “Tour of the Reservoir” **booklet** created in 2003 needs to be updated.
- Improvements needed at the **“island”** of vegetation near the parking lot: Clear out invasives. Repair the kiosk and the wooden “map.” Possible Eagle Scout projects?